



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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October 25, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TANA GROUP  
HOME, INC., TANA #1 AND TANA #2 GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Tana #1 and #2 Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by the Tana Group Home, Inc. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Tana #1 Group Home is a 12-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Tana #1 Group Home was providing services for ten Los Angeles County DCFS children. Tana #1 Group Home is located in Second District.

Tana #2 Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Tana #2 Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children. Tana #2 Group Home is located in Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several areas where improvements are needed.

#### **Tana #1 Group Home**

Tana #1 Group Home needs to make numerous repairs to its facility; obtain and maintain recreational equipment; provide documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans; provide documentation to show that the residents receive regular individual and/or group therapy sessions as required by the Program Statement; and provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain a photo albums/life book.

#### **Tana #2 Group Home**

Tana #2 Group Home needs to make numerous repairs to its facility; provide documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans; provide documentation to show that the residents receive regular individual and/or group therapy sessions as required by the Program Statement; and provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Carrie Thomas, Executive Director, Tana Group Homes, Inc.  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Tana Group Home, Inc.  
Tana Group Home #1  
4122 S. Normandie  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 293-5946  
License No.: 191800479  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

### **Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Tana Group Home #1 (Group Home or Agency) is an average size facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are some areas that need improvement.

In the kitchen, the stove top and oven are extremely dirty and covered with grease. In the downstairs hall bathroom, the ceiling light fixture cover is missing and in the second downstairs bathroom, the bath tub is dirty.

In the two downstairs bedrooms, the dresser drawers have missing knobs, the dressers have scratches and writing on top, and there is writing on the bedroom walls. In one of the upstairs bedrooms, there are inappropriate pictures and posters including pictures of weapons. Additionally, there are no mattress pads and/or covers for the residents' beds.

The Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible outdoor recreational equipment on grounds. There are board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. Tana Group Home, Inc. management:**
  - a. Clean the kitchen stove top and oven.**
  - b. Replace the light fixture cover in the downstairs hall bathroom.**
  - c. Clean the bath tub in the second downstairs bathroom.**
  - d. Replace all missing knobs and/or handles on bedroom dressers.**
  - e. Remove all scratches and writing from dressers and walls.**
  - f. Remove all inappropriate pictures and posters from the bedroom walls.**
  - g. Provide mattress pads and/or covers for the residents' beds.**
  - h. Obtain and maintain age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of one resident's Needs and Service Plan.

The quarterly reports are current and comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Both residents reported that they are receiving individual and group therapy. However, case files do not reflect adequate

documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy sessions.

**Recommendations**

**2. Tana Group Home, Inc. management:**

- a. Maintain documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. Maintain documentation to show that the residents receive regular individual and/or group therapy sessions as required by the Program Statement.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

One resident attends regular classes at a local school. The other resident attends Special Education classes at a local school and has a current Individualized Education Plan. Both records contain current report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and they feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information was appropriately documented.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 3. Tana Group Home, Inc. management provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**



**Tana Group Home, Inc.  
Tana Group Home #2  
3417 S. Arlington Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Phone: (323) 293-5946  
License No.: 191801363  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

### **Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Tana Group Home #2 (Group Home or Agency) is an average size facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. However, there are missing and broken window screens.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are some areas that need improvement.

The hall electric switch has a missing cover exposing the wiring and presenting a safety hazard. In the kitchen, the oven is extremely dirty and covered with grease.

In the first and second bedrooms, the dresser drawers have missing knobs, the dressers have scratches and writing on top, and the bedroom carpet has large burn areas. In the first bedroom, the mirror is extremely dirty and the curtains are worn and have large torn areas. Additionally, there are no mattress pads and/or covers for the residents' beds.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

1. Tana Group Home, Inc. management:
  - a. Immediately replace the electric switch cover in the hall.
  - b. Clean the kitchen oven.
  - c. Replace or repair all broken and missing window screens.
  - d. Repair bedroom dressers and remove all scratches and/or graffiti writing on bedroom dressers.
  - e. Repair or replace the bedroom carpet.
  - f. Replace the torn window curtains in bedroom number one.
  - g. Clean the mirror in bedroom number one.
  - h. Provide mattress pads and/or covers for the residents' beds.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development or update of one Needs and Service Plan.

The quarterly reports are current and comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Both residents reported that they are receiving individual and group therapy. However, case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy sessions.

## **Recommendations**

### **2. Tana Group Home, Inc. management:**

- a. Maintain documentation to show the placement workers' participation in the development or update of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. Maintain documentation to show that the residents receive regular individual and/or group therapy sessions as required by the Program Statement.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

One resident attends regular classes at a local school. The other resident attends Special Education classes at a local school and has a current Individualized Education Plan. Records contain current report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and they feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

## **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medication. This information was appropriately documented.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted.

Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced, and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

3. Tara Group Home, Inc., management provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.